



Congressman Rush Holt's Forum on the **ACA and **SHOP** East Brunswick, NJ**

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The Health Care Law

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)**



The three overarching goals of the ACA are:

Make Healthcare more **Affordable**, Improve **Access** to Care and **Protect** Consumers from Insurance Company Abuses

Consumer Protections

- Since September 2010, Insurance companies can **no longer deny coverage to a child due to a pre-existing condition.**
- As of January 1, 2014, adults can **no longer be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition.**
- Insurance companies can **no longer put a yearly or lifetime cap on coverage.**
- Insurance companies **must spend 80% of premiums on healthcare or improvements to care**; if they don't, they have to give the consumer a rebate.
- Insurance companies **must publicly justify their actions if they want to raise premiums by 10 percent or more.** And states have more power to block them.

Health Insurance Marketplace?

Centerpiece of the ACA

- New way to buy health insurance
- Even working families can get help through the Marketplace
 - ❖ **Enrollment starts October 1, 2013**
 - ❖ **Coverage begins January 1, 2014**
- Everyone must obtain insurance through the Marketplace except for people who have private insurance, employer sponsored insurance, retirement insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, or VA Health Benefits.
 - Excluded are undocumented individuals and the incarcerated.
 - Hardship exemption is available

Introduction to the Marketplace

➤ **The Marketplace (or Exchange)**

- Is a place for individuals and small employers to directly compare private health insurance companies
- Can directly compare on the basis of price, benefits, quality, and other factors
- Simplifies the search for health insurance with all options in one place, with one application.

➤ **Who is eligible:**

- Must live in service area
- Must be a citizen or legally reside in the country
- Must not be incarcerated

All Qualified Health Plans Will Cover 10 Essential Health Benefits

1. Ambulatory patient services
2. Emergency services
3. Hospitalization
4. Maternity and newborn care
5. Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment
6. Prescription drugs
7. Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices
8. Laboratory services
9. Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management
10. Pediatric services, including oral* and vision care

*Not required in benefit package if stand-alone dental plan is in the Marketplace in which the plan operates.

Making Healthcare Affordable:

Premium Tax Credit & Cost Sharing Reductions

- **Premium Tax Credit** is available to consumers with household incomes between 100% and 400% of the FPL and who don't qualify for other health insurance coverage
 - **For an individual up to \$45,960 in 2013**
 - **For family of 4 up to \$94,200 in 2013**

- **Cost Sharing Reduction** is generally available to those with income 250% FPL or below
 - **\$28,725 for an individual and**
 - **\$58,875 for a family of 4 in 2013)**

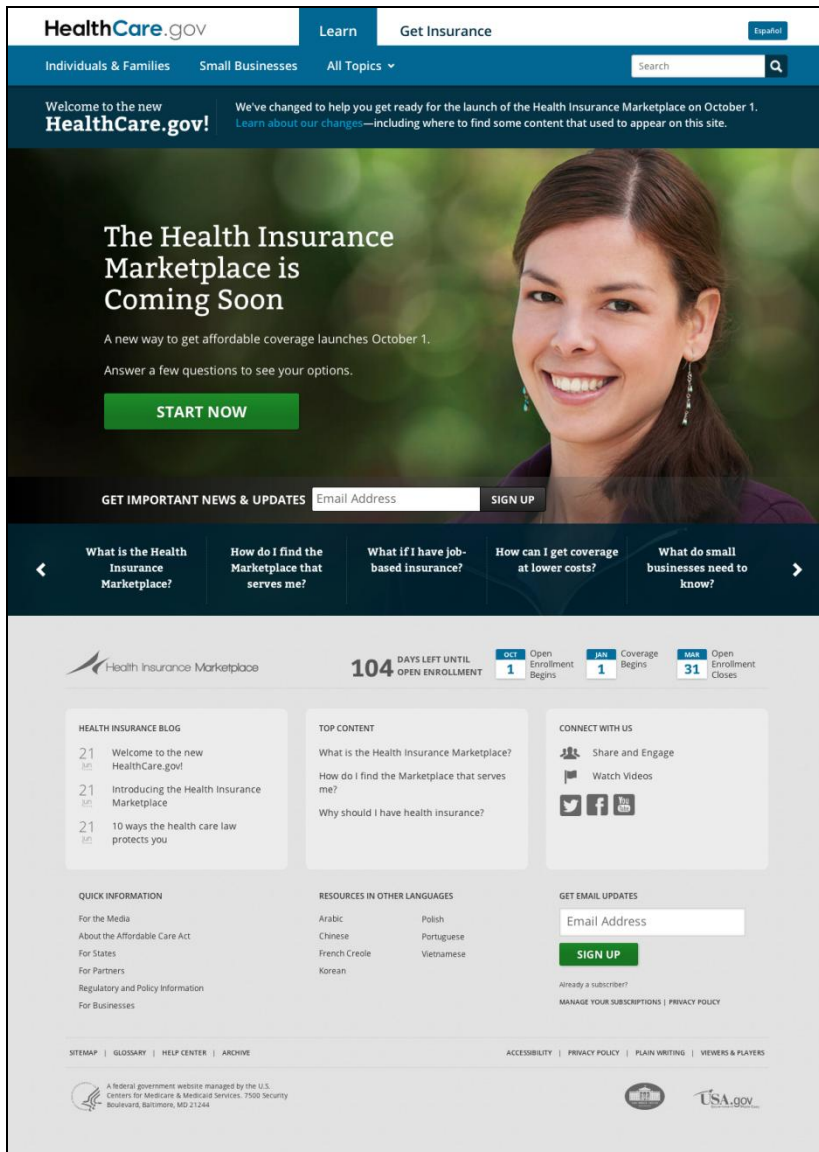
Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP)

- SHOP is a Marketplace for small businesses and their employees (fewer than 100 employees)
 - States may limit participation to those with 50 or fewer employees for the first 2 years
 - Employer will access the SHOP where its principal business office is located
 - Sole proprietors may buy through the Marketplace rather than the SHOP
- Eligible employers can
 - Define how much they'll contribute toward their employees' coverage
 - Have exclusive access to a small business tax credit

Medicaid Expansion

- States have the option to expand Medicaid eligibility to adults ages 19 – 64 with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (\$15,282/year for an individual, \$31,322/year for a family of 4)
 - 100% federal funding for newly Medicaid eligible for the first 3 years
 - 90% federal funding after the third year
 - States have no deadline to decide if they are going to expand
- One streamlined application for Medicaid or private health plans
- Shifts to simplified way of calculating income to determine Medicaid/CHIP eligibility
 - Known as Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)

Apply On Line



www.healthcare.gov

- User friendly & easy to navigate
- Accessible for the visually impaired
- Available in Spanish:

www.cuidadodesalud.gov

Apply by Phone

Individual/Families: 800-318-2596

SHOP: 800-706-7893

- From **June to September 2013**, the Call Center will respond to general inquiries about:
 - What's a premium? What's a deductible?
 - I have insurance, will I be impacted?
 - Where can I go to get additional information?
 - When will I need to make a decision?

- Available for enrollment after **October 1, 2013**

Apply in Person

➤ In person assisters will be available to help prepare electronic and paper applications to establish eligibility and to enroll in coverage through the Marketplace

❖ Navigators

- Federally Funded

❖ Certified Application Counselor Organizations (CAC)

- Local Community Health Centers
- Local Hospitals
- Faith-based institutions
- Other locations in local communities

❖ Agents and brokers

More Marketplace Information

- www.Healthcare.gov
 - www.Cuidadodesalud.gov (Spanish)
- www.Marketplace.cms.gov
- [Twitter@HealthCareGov](https://twitter.com/HealthCareGov)
- facebook.com/Healthcare.gov
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